

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT A 01232 232144Z

63

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 RSR-01 /075 W

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O 232110Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6748

INFO COMNAVBASE GTMO CUBA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, HA

SUBJECT: FIRE AT NATIONAL PALACE ARMORY; SITUATION AT 15:30 LOCAL

1. GUANTANAMO NAVAL BASE FIREFIGHTING PERSONNEL ARRIVED  
PORT-AU-PRINCE AT 12:45 AND SENT ADVANCE PARTY TO PALACE  
FOLLOWED BY EQUIPMENT. BY 15:15 FIRE WAS DEFINITELY UNDER  
CONTROL AND PROBLEM SIMPLY ONE OF WETTING DOWN BUILDING.

2. I TOOK CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER WOOD AND GUANTANAMO BASE  
FIRE CHIEF TO REPORT TO PRESIDENT AND MADAME DUVALIER,  
WHO ARE LODGED IN SMALL STRUCTURE ON PALACE GROUNDS. THEIR  
REPORT MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

- A. THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO WET DOWN BUILDING FOR TWO HOURS;
- B. HAITIAN FIREMEN HAD PERFORMED IN VERY PROFESSIONAL MANNER  
AND DONE ALL THE RIGHT THINGS;
- C. GUANTANAMO PARTY WOULD REMAIN IN PORT-AU-PRINCE OVER  
NIGHT AND CHECK BUILDING AGAIN ON TUESDAY;
- D. HAITIAN PERSONNEL SHOULD BE WARNED NOT TO PICK UP OR  
KICK VARIOUS ITEMS OF AMMUNITION STREWN ABOUT THE COURTYARDS

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SINCE THIS MATERIAL WAS LIKELY TO EXPLODE.

3. SUGGESTION RE DISPOSAL OF BURNED ORDNANCE MATERIAL WOULD BE OFFERED ON TUESDAY.

4. PRESIDENT EXPRESSED WARMEST THANKS FOR RESPONSE OF GUANTANAMO NAVAL BASE AS DID CHIEF OF STAFF, FOREIGN MINISTER, DEFENSE MINISTER, AND ALL OFFICIALS ENCOUNTERED.

5. DAMAGE APPEARS CONFINED MAINLY TO BASEMENTS AND GROUND FLOOR, ESPECIALLY IN CENTER OF PALACE UNDERNEATH MAIN ENTRANCE. FROM OUTSIDE BUILDING APPEARED UNTOUCHED EXCEPT FOR SMOKE STAINS AROUND THE FIRST FLOOR WINDOWS.

6. FIRE FIGHTING TEAM WILL INDICATE PROPOSED ETD PORT-AU-PRINCE BY SEPARATE MESSAGE TUESDAY.

7. MANY THANKS FROM ALL HERE TO ADMIRAL GHORMLEY AND GUANTANAMO NAVAL BASE FOR THIS VERY EFFECTIVE RESPONSE TO OUR CALL FOR HELP.

8. COMMENT: PRESIDENT, MADAME DUVALIER, AND ALL GOH OFFICIALS ENCOUNTERED IN THE COURSE OF THE DAY SEEMED CALM AND SELF-ASSURED. OUTSIDE PALACE LIFE IN PORT-AU-PRINCE WENT ON AS NORMAL.

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## Message Attributes

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**Draft Date:** 23 JUL 1973  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** PINS, HA  
**To:** STATE  
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